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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/812,486	03/30/2004	Alan M. Green	200314746-1	3254

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EXAMINER	
BAE, JI H	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2115	

DATE MAILED: 07/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/812,486	GREEN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Ji H. Bae	2115	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *30 March 2004*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-23* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-23* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *30 March 2004* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *3-30-2004*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 3-5, 10, 15, 17, 21, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Holman, Jr., U.S. Patent No. 5,506,990.

Regarding claim 1, Holman discloses a computer system, comprising:

an operating system;

a power switch, operation of which, when enabled, causes a power-off of the computer system [Fig. 1, power switch 14];

and a switch mask connected to the power switch to enable and disable the power-off of the computer system without intervention by the operating system [key switch 12, Fig. 1, Fig. 2a, col. 2, lines 14-21, col. 4, lines 11-43].

Regarding claim 3, Holman teaches that the switch mask, when disabling the power-off, prevents the computer system from powering off in response to operation of the power switch.

Regarding claim 4, Holman teaches that the operating system is incapable of causing the computer system to power off; and

the switch mask, when enabling the power-off, causes the computer system to power off in response to operation of the power switch.

Regarding claim 5, Holman teaches a power control hardware connected to the switch mask and capable of causing the computer system to power off [PAL 18, Fig. 1]; and wherein

the operating system is incapable of operating the power control hardware to cause the computer system to power off; and

the switch mask, when enabling the power-off, is capable of causing the power control hardware to cause the computer system to power off in response to operation of the power switch.

Regarding claim 10, Holman discloses a computer system comprising:

an operating system means;

a means for generating a power-off signal;

a means for powering off the computer system in response to the power off signal; and

a means for masking the power-off signal from being supplied to the powering off means.

Regarding claim 15, Holman teaches a method comprising:

setting a switch mask to one of two power-off modes comprising power-off enabled and power-off disabled;

generating a power-off signal indicating a desire to power off the computer system;

intercepting the power-off signal by the switch mask;

responding to the power-off signal according to the setting of the switch mask without intervention by an operating system of the computer system;

when the switch mask is set to power-off enabled, power off the computer system; and

when the switch mask is set to power-off disabled, preventing powering off the computer system.

Regarding claim 17, Holman teaches:

masking the power-off signal to form at least one masked power-off signal according to the setting of the switch mask without intervention by the operating system of the computer system;

supplying the masked power-off signal to a power control hardware of the computer system;

and the power control hardware responding to the masked power-off signal by powering off the computer system when the switch mask is set to power-off enabled.

Regarding claim 21, Holman teaches a method comprising:

generating a power-off signal;

intercepting the power-off signal by a switch mask;

generating a masked power-off signal by the switch mask corresponding to the power-off signal when power-off is enabled in the switch mask; and

powering off the computer system in response to the masked power-off signal without intervention by an operating system of the computer system.

Regarding claim 22, Holman teaches preventing a power-off of the computer system when power-off is disabled in the switch mask.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2, 6-9, 11-14, 16, 18-20, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admission of prior art (AAPA) in view of Holman.

Regarding claim 2, AAPA discloses [paragraph 0004]:

an operating system;

a power switch, operation of which, when enabled, causes a power-off of the computer system;

an immediate power-off mode;

a delayed power off mode.

AAPA does not teach a switch mask for enabling/disabling an immediate power-off mode or a delayed power-off mode without intervention by the operating system.

Holman teaches a switch mask that enables a power-on/off without intervention by the operating system.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of AAPA and Holman by adding the switch mask of Holman to the system disclosed in AAPA. Both Holman and AAPA are directed towards power control of computer systems. The teachings of Holman would improve AAPA by providing way to flexibly secure the computer system and prevent unauthorized or inadvertent access [col. 1, lines 14-38, 55-64].

Regarding claim 6, AAPA teaches ACPI-compliant hardware.

Regarding claim 7, AAPA teaches that the operating system is capable of causing the computer system to power off upon operation of the power switch.

Regarding claim 8, AAPA/Holman discloses:

a power control hardware connected to the switch mask and capable of causing the computer system to power off; and wherein

the operating system is capable of operating the power control hardware to cause the computer system to power off upon operation of the power switch; and

the switch mask, when disabling the power-off, prevents the power control hardware from powering off the computer system.

Regarding claim 9, AAPA discloses that the power control hardware comprises an ACPI-compliant hardware.

Regarding claim 11, AAPA/Holman teaches that the masking means can enable/disable the power-off signal from being supplied to the powering off means upon generating the power-off signal; and

the masking means can enable/disable the power-off signal from being supplied to the powering off means after a delay time period after generating the power-off signal.

More specifically, in the combination of AAPA with Holman, since the teachings of Holman are intended to provide security by preventing unauthorized activation/deactivation of the computer system, the switch mask of Holman is used to mask both the normal and delayed power-off signals.

Regarding claim 12, AAPA teaches that the powering off means is APCI-compliant.

Regarding claims 13 and 14, AAPA/Holman discloses a power switch mask comprising:

an input for the power-off signal;

an output for an immediate power-off signal at which the immediate power-off signal is supplied in response to the power –off signal when immediate power-off is enabled, the immediate power-off signal not being supplied when immediate power-off is disabled; and

an output for a delayed power-off signal at which the delayed power-odd signal is supplied in response to continuous input of the power-off signal for a delay period of time when delayed power-off is enabled, the delayed power-off signal not being supplied when delayed power-off is disabled.

Regarding claim 16, AAPA/Holman teaches:

the two aforementioned power-off modes comprise immediate power-off modes comprising immediate power-off enabled and immediate power-off disabled;

and further comprising:

setting the switch mask to one of two delayed power-off modes comprising delayed power-off enabled and delayed power-off disabled; and responding to the power-off signal according to the immediate power-off mode setting and the delayed power-off mode setting of the switch mask without intervention by the operating system of the computer system.

Regarding claim 18-20, AAPA teaches that the power control hardware is ACPI-compliant. Additionally, in view of the combination of AAPA with Holman, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the OS could have been either ACPI-compliant or non-compliant. Although AAPA teaches an ACPI-compliant OS, it is obvious that the OS does not have to be ACPI-compliant, since Holman teaches that the power switch and mask operate without intervention from the OS.

Regarding claim 23, AAPA/Holman teaches:

preventing an immediate power-off of the computer system when immediate power-off is disabled in the switch mask;

and preventing a delayed power-off of the computer system when delayed power-off is disabled in the switch mask.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Babcock, U.S. Patent No. 5,845,136;

Chen, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0050242 A1;

Grad et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,692,057;

Maloney, U.S. Patent No. 6,453,169 B1;

Chheda et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0236936 A1;

Cha, U.S. Patent No. 6,240,520 B1.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ji H. Bae whose telephone number is 571-272-7181. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 10 am to 6:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Lee can be reached on 571-272-3667. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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